

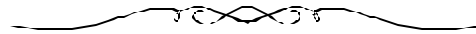
A Special Advisory of The State Mining & Geology Board

**THE STATE MINING &
GEOLOGY BOARD**
Sacramento, California

Special Advisory Number 2005-02

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Special Advisory on La Conchita Landslide, Ventura County



On January 13, 2005 the State Mining and Geology Board (Board) directed the Board's Geohazards Committee to conduct an inspection of the large landslide that affects the community of La Conchita, Ventura County, California, pursuant to the Board's oversight authority for the Seismic Hazards Mapping Act. The Geohazards Committee, in coordination with geologists from the California Geological Survey, the State Office of Emergency Services, the California Coastal Commission, and the County of Ventura, observed on January 27, 2005 the site of the recent slope failure. Based on the information received at the January 13, 2005 meeting of the Board, and information received and observations made at La Conchita on January 27, 2005, the Geohazards Committee concludes the following:

1. The landslide deposits present on the hillside located just north of the La Conchita community have experienced large landslide and mudflow failures for more than a century.
2. The landslide failure that occurred in 1995 involved approximately 1.7 million cubic yards of debris. This event destroyed numerous homes but involved no loss of life.
3. The landslide failure of January, 2005 involved the sudden downslope movement of approximately 250,000 cubic yards of the 1995 landslide mass. This failure resulted in the destruction of thirteen homes, damage to eighteen other structures, and the deaths of ten people.
4. The landslides involved in the 1995 and 2005 failures represent approximately one-tenth of the potentially unstable ancient landslide deposits present on the steep hillside above the La Conchita community.

5. The landslide mass above the La Conchita community currently is failing at several locations other than the locations of the 1995 and 2005 landslides, with landslide scarps and eroded landslide debris clearly visible at several points on the hillside above the community.
6. Based on the above, the Geohazards Committee finds that the community of La Conchita is subject to imminent and catastrophic landslide and mudflow hazards. The proximate cause for such an event can be either weather-related or result from ground shaking during an earthquake. The geologic conditions at La Conchita are a direct threat to the lives of residents, guests, and any other person who enters that area. In addition, the lives of rescue personnel that may be required to enter the community during and after future landslide events are especially at risk.

Therefore, the State Mining and Geology Board, upon recommendation of the Geohazards Committee, concludes the following:

- ?? The community of La Conchita is subject to a continuing, life threatening geological hazard posed by the unstable geology of the hillside above the site; and,
- ?? The Board recommends the formation of a multi-agency technical working group to evaluate the scope of landslide threats in the La Conchita area, potential mitigation measures, and State policies involving such geologic hazards.



Adopted: February 10, 2005

Allen M. Jones

Allen M. Jones, Chairman